

Testimony before the Education committee

Public Hearing Monday March 10th 2008

In Support of bill 613 An Act concerning a uniform school start date

The bill that is raised 613 an Act for a uniform school start date is critical for tourism businesses.

Lake Compounce is a Theme Park located in Bristol CT that hires 1400 seasonal Team Members along with 50 full time Team Members. Lake Compounce draws nearly 700,000 guests in a 110 day span with approximately 30% coming from out of state. Lake Compounce Operates with many high school students, college students and retirees. We rely heavily on high school students to help at that time of year because colleges have already started and with high schools starting class before labor day, we cannot staff our facility so we end up closing daily operation at that time.

Tourism Perspective

- The last five weekday operating days, Lake Compounce averages 7,000-10,000 visitors a day
- The park alone losses between 1.5-2 million dollars in gross sales during those 5 days
- The majority of our visitors during the last two weeks of operation are out of state visitors (above 40%) who stay at local hotels, eat at local restaurants, buy gas at our local stations. The multiplier effect is large.
- Lake Compounce has approximately 400 workers a day that will still be employed
- The workforce has gone back to school in Connecticut while other states are still visiting our park
- The kids are learning during that time, they are on the job learning which are very important skills these workers will take with them into their careers
- The state loses out on a week of a 10% admissions tax and sales tax generated by the food and retail outlets.

This Act will be a positive step in the right direction for tourism businesses in the state of Connecticut